

**The command of love...**In Jesus' last supper discourse he speaks of the love he has for his disciples and of his Father's love. He prepares his disciples for his imminent departure to return to his Father by exhorting them to prove their love for him through their loyalty and obedience to his word. Jesus reveals to his apostles the secret to ensure his presence in their midst, and the light to discover him: the observance of his command of love. If they fulfill his command of mutual love, they will be saved and his promises will come true. That is, not he alone, but his Father and the Spirit too will come and establish their abode, not just in their midst, but within their own hearts. Secondly, the Holy Spirit will take them under his personal care and become their teacher and guide. He will make clear to them the meaning of all that he had taught them during his preaching and prompt them what to do in every situation. The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in the knowledge of God and his great love. The Spirit enables us to experience the love of God and to be assured of the Lord's abiding presence with us. And thirdly, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit will not come to them empty handed, they will fill their hearts with peace, God's own peace, such peace as no one ever experienced; and with joy, a joy so deep that no suffering, grief, danger or trial could ever do away with. The world's approach to peace is avoidance of trouble and a refusal to face unpleasant things. Jesus offers the peace which conquers our fears and anxieties. The peace of Christ is more than the absence of trouble. It includes everything which makes for our highest good.

More than ever, we need to observe Jesus' command of love in our lives. God created us in love, to love and to be loved. Jesus has shown us what love means through his life and through the cross. Can we do our part to live in mutual love? If we do that, the new city of God, where everyone is welcome and belongs, will become a reality. We are children of God the Father; thus, we are brothers and sisters to each other, we belong to his family. Let love be the foundation that binds and holds this family of God together and stronger than ever.

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